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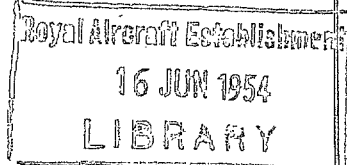
By

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and

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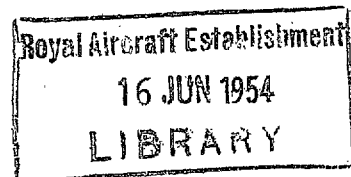
24-ft Wind Tunnel Tests on a Propeller with NACA 16 Series Sections. Test Results and Analysis into Mean Lift-Drag Data

By

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Summary.—This report gives the results of tests made in the Royal Aircraft Establishment 24-ft Wind Tunnel on the de Havilland propeller for the Aeronautical Research Council research programme initiated in 1943. The propeller was designed to give a good performance at high forward speeds and the aim of these tests was to check whether, as a result, serious losses in take-off performance had been incurred. The results are more reassuring than was expected.

The principal features of the blades are NACA series 16 sections cambered to a design C_L of 0.3, and very thin root sections (e.g., for $r/R = 0.2$, $t/c =$ only 16 per cent). The results have been analysed into lift and drag data for use with the standard single-radius method. The minimum C_D is 0.010 for all tip Mach numbers up to 0.92; $dC_L/d\alpha$ at low incidence is 0.09 per deg; the stalling C_L (i.e., the value for $C_D = 0.10$) increases from 0.91₅ at low speed to 0.96₅ at high tip Mach number.

The data have been compared with the results previously found for various Clark Y propellers. When allowance has been made for the effects of thickness at the 0.7 radius, root thickness, pitch distribution and plan form, the low speed stalling C_L for the present propeller is about 0.2 higher than would be estimated for a similar Clark Y propeller. The improvement becomes more marked with increase in Mach number, and so NACA series 16 sections appear to have a beneficial effect on the stalling performance at all tip speeds.

In spite of this difference in stalling C_L , the actual take-off performance is about the same as would be predicted by the R.A.E. charts for their Clark Y blades. This is because the correction for the thinner roots counterbalances the effect of the NACA 16 sections.

1. *Introduction.*—The Aeronautical Research Council high-speed propeller research programme, initiated in the autumn of 1943, aimed at finding the efficiency of propellers at high forward speeds under the correct operating conditions, and also how the compressibility losses would be affected by three-dimensional and centrifugal effects, and by advance ratio.

Of the three propellers proposed for the tests, the one finally selected, design B, was made by the de Havilland Aircraft Co. Ltd. On the basis of existing data and consistent with structural limitations, this design was considered to be the best possible for operating at a forward speed of 530 m.p.h. at 26,000 ft. The propeller had thin sections of NACA series 16 section shape cambered to a design C_L of 0.3 over most of its length.

The 24-ft Wind Tunnel tests had two principal objects. The first and more important aim was to find how much the design features introduced to improve the top-speed performance had prejudiced the take-off performance—for example, aerofoil tests had predicted that the

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high-speed sections used would give only a poor maximum lift. The secondary aim was to provide a comparison between the data measured under conditions of high tip speed and low forward speed with those obtained from the tunnel and flight tests at high forward speeds. This comparison is important since estimates of performance under flight conditions have had to be based in the past chiefly on the data obtained at low advance ratio. Because of the need for this comparison, the tests were extended to higher tip speeds than would be met at take-off.

The present report gives the results of the tests in the 24-ft Wind Tunnel and their analysis into lift-drag data. A comparison is made of the performance of this propeller with that of Clark Y section propellers previously tested.

2. *Propeller Details and Range of Tests.*—Thickness distribution, plan form and pitch distribution of the propeller tested (design B) is shown in Fig. 1. Figs. 2, 3, 4 compare the blade details of this propeller with those of the second thinned version of the de Havilland *Spitfire* I propeller.

The blade sections outboard of the 0.3 radius were of the NACA series 16 except near the trailing edge where the thickness had to be increased to give the minimum trailing-edge angle considered possible to manufacture.

The propeller was tested at six pitch settings—approximately 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 deg at the 0.7 radius. It was not possible to run the tests accurately at these nominal values because of the method of pitch locking—in the actual tests the blades slipped till they were running about half a degree fine.

Measurements of overall thrust and torque were made over a range of tip Mach number (M_T) from 0.5 to 0.96 and of advance ratio (J) from 0.15 to 0.95. These ranges were the largest possible as determined by the maximum tunnel speed and the power and r.p.m. limitations of the motor.

3. *Results of Tests.*—The results of the tests (given in Tables 1 to 6) have been reduced to the usual coefficients.

$$\text{Thrust coefficient } K_T = \text{Propulsive thrust}/\rho n^2 D^4.$$

$$\text{Torque coefficient } K_Q = \text{Torque}/\rho n^2 D^5.$$

$$\text{Propulsive efficiency } \eta = (J/2\pi)(K_T/K_Q).$$

The propulsive thrusts are derived by the formula

$$T_p = (T - R) + R_0$$

where T_p propulsive thrust,
 T 'free air' thrust,
 R_0 drag of nacelle and pylon without propeller,
 R drag of nacelle and pylon with propeller running,
 $T - R$ tunnel balance reading.

The operating conditions are given by the values of advance ratio

$$J = \frac{V}{nD}$$

and tip Mach number $M_T = \sqrt{(V^2 + (\pi nD)^2)}/(\text{speed of sound}).$

4. *Analysis of Results.*—The results have been analysed by Lock's single-radius method¹ into C_D vs. C_L polar curves (Fig. 5) and C_L vs. α curves (Fig. 7). These curves are given for an M_T range from 0.515 to 0.915.

Fig. 6 shows the actual values obtained from the analysis for $M_T = 0.615$ and 0.815 and hence the amount of scatter about the mean curves. This scatter is small and there is no break between the curves derived from different pitch settings.

In the above M_T range, the value of $C_{D\min.}$ ($= 0.010$) is independent of Mach number (Fig. 5). Between $C_L = 0.5$ and 1.0, C_D actually decreases with Mach number and so the stalling C_L (*i.e.*, the value of C_L for which $C_D = 0.10$) increases with Mach number—by about 0.05 in this range. For $C_L > 1.0$, the C_D vs. C_L curves begin to cross over so that for $C_L > 1.2$, C_D increases with Mach number.

5. *Comparison of the Results of the Analysis with Other 24-ft Tunnel Data.*—The results of the present analysis are compared with the data previously described for Clark Y propellers, particularly as regards the stalling performance and the variations with Mach number. The main aim in this comparison is to deduce the effects of the different section shapes but, before this can be done, the influence of other variables has to be eliminated. These other variables are principally the blade pitch distribution, thickness distribution (particularly at the roots), and plan form. The Clark Y sectioned propeller, having the closest similarity to design B in these particulars, and for which data are available², is the second thinned version³ of the de Havilland propeller for the *Spitfire* I. For ease in reference, this propeller is referred to below as propeller V as in R. & M. 2357⁴. Propellers V and design B have approximately the same pitch distributions referred to their respective no-lift angles (Fig. 3) and also similar thickness distributions near the blade tips (Fig. 2). The principal differences that have, therefore, to be allowed for on the basis of comparative data from other designs, are the plan form and the thickness distributions at the roots.

5.1. *Comparison for Low Mach Number.*—5.1.1. *Below the stall.*—Fig. 8 compares the C_D vs. C_L curves for propellers V and design B for a tip Mach number of 0.5. $C_{D\min.}$ is the same for both blades ($= 0.010$) but occurs for a slightly lower C_L for design B at about $C_L = 0.3$. For higher C_L values, propeller V has the lower drag.

Fig. 9 compares the C_L vs. α curves also for $M_T = 0.5$. For $2 \text{ deg} > \alpha > 8 \text{ deg}$ ($dC_L/d\alpha$) for design B is 0.09 per deg, *i.e.*, 0.9 of the value for propeller V. This agrees with predictions from two-dimensional aerofoil tests. Hence the value of A_0^5 that should be used in 8-radius calculations⁵ for propellers with NACA series 16 sections is 0.09 rather than 0.10.

5.1.2. *Stalling behaviour.*—The behaviour at the stall is compared on the basis of the value of C_L for $C_D = 0.10$. An empirical method was suggested in R. & M. 2357⁴ for allowing for the effects of different design parameters on this C_L value. These effects are assumed to be mutually independent. The following is an application of this method to propellers V and design B.

5.2. *Mach Number Effects.*—When the tip Mach number has increased to 0.9, the improvement in the performance of design B over what would be expected from the results of propeller V is even more marked. From Fig. 10, it can be seen that $C_{D_{min}}$ is 0.010 compared with 0.012 for V, the stalling C_L is about the same for the two propellers and above the stall, design B has the lower drag. This agreement in stalling C_L implies that the value for design B is higher by about 0.25 than what would be expected for a similar Clark Y propeller. The further relative improvement of the NACA series 16 with increasing Mach number could be predicted from two-dimensional data which show that, though $C_{L_{max}}$ decreases with increasing M for conventional sections, it may remain roughly constant or even increase up to moderately high M for sections with far back maximum thickness.

6. *Comparison with Previous American Model Tests.*—Fig. 11 shows a comparison of C_D vs. C_L polars at low Mach number for design B and a model NACA 16 sectioned Hamilton propeller 6457-6. The results of tests⁷ on the latter were analysed in Ref. 8. The model propeller has a design C_L of about 0.45 and bearing in mind that the stalling C_L should increase with the design C_L , the stalling C_L of design B is better than would be expected. The discrepancy may be due to the higher operating Reynolds number of the 24-ft Tunnel tests.

7. *Comparison of Take-off Thrust Characteristics.*—The data resulting from the analysis for design B have been used to derive the static and take-off thrust characteristics for a 3-bladed propeller of 0.09 solidity and 6.4 per cent thickness ratio at the 0.7 radius and having NACA series 16 sections cambered to a design C_L of 0.3 outboard of the 0.3 radius. The results are given in Fig. 12 in the form of curves of K_T/C_p vs. C_p and are compared with values for a similar Clark Y propeller derived from the charts of R. & M. 2358⁹. It had been expected in view of its thin roots and the relatively low design C_L of its sections, that design B would have a particularly low take-off thrust. Fig. 12 shows, however, that while this is true at the low end of the C_p scale, there is little to choose between the two propeller types for high power absorptions. In practice, the latter is now the most important range.

The thin roots and NACA series 16 sections were introduced to improve the top speed performance. Results of high-speed tunnel tests¹⁰ on a model of this propeller have confirmed the expectations of good peak efficiencies up to forward Mach numbers of about 0.78 and so the present results are very important in showing that this has been achieved without any serious loss in take-off performance as compared with a more conventional design.

8. *Conclusions.*—The analysis of the 24-ft Tunnel results on the design B propeller into mean lift-drag data shows that $dC_L/d\alpha$ at low speed = 0.09 per deg, $C_{D_{min}} = 0.010$ and is independent of Mach number up to $M_T = 0.92$ and the stalling C_L (for $C_D = 0.10$) increases from 0.91_s at low Mach number to 0.96_s for $M_T = 0.92$.

A comparison with earlier results shows that, when allowance is made for the effects of thickness distribution, plan form and pitch distribution, the stalling C_L is higher by 0.19 at low Mach number and by about 0.25 for $M_T = 0.9$ than would be expected for a similar Clark Y sectioned propeller. This beneficial effect of the NACA series 16 sections is probably due to the altered nature of the stall on sections with far back maximum thickness.

In spite of this difference in stalling C_L , the actual take-off performance—in particular, for the high power absorptions likely in practice—is about the same as would be predicted by the R.A.E. charts for thin Clark Y blades. This is because the correction for the thinner roots counterbalances the effect of the NACA 16 sections.

These conclusions are more reassuring than had been expected. The good top-speed efficiencies with this propeller¹⁰ have been achieved without any serious loss in take-off performance.

LIST OF SYMBOLS

D	Propeller diameter.	
R	Propeller tip radius.	
c	Blade section chord.	
t	Blade section thickness.	
C_L	Mean lift coefficient.	} Derived by single radius method.
C_D	Mean drag coefficient	
V	Forward speed.	
n	Propeller rotational speed.	
$J = V/nD$	Advance ratio.	
$M_T = \sqrt{\{V^2 + (\pi nD)^2\}}$	tip Mach number.	
ρ	Air density.	
θ	Propeller blade angle (relative to chord).	
ε_0	Angle for zero lift at low speed.	
α	Mean blade incidence.	

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TABLE 1

de Havilland Laminar Flow Blade Propeller (Design B)

NACA series 16 sections, 11-ft diameter, 2 blades

 $s_{0.7} = 0.075$, $(t/c)_{0.7} = 0.064$, $\theta_{0.7} = 10$ deg.

N r.p.m.	M_T	J	K_Q	K_T	η
1200	0.613	0.141	0.00267	0.0471	0.396
	0.615	0.271	0.00213	0.0290	0.587
	0.617	0.366	0.00146	0.0134	0.534
	0.618	0.458	0.00061	— 0.0030	—
1400	0.715	0.150	0.00770	0.0479	0.423
	0.716	0.236	0.00231	0.0341	0.554
	0.717	0.314	0.00185	0.0217	0.584
	0.718	0.393	0.00122	0.0072	0.371
	0.721	0.474	0.00039	— 0.0081	—
1600	0.816	0.137	0.00286	0.0500	0.382
	0.818	0.207	0.00254	0.0393	0.510
	0.818	0.276	0.00219	0.0287	0.572
	0.820	0.345	0.00168	0.0163	0.535

TABLE 2

de Havilland Laminar Flow Blade Propeller (Design B)

NACA series 16 sections, 11-ft diameter, 2 blades

 $s_{0.7} = 0.075$, $(t/c)_{0.7} = 0.064$, $\theta_{0.7} = 15$ deg.

N r.p.m.	M_T	J	K_Q	K_T	η
1200	0.619	0.172	0.00536	0.0738	0.377
	0.620	0.274	0.00464	0.0606	0.570
	0.622	0.367	0.00398	0.0472	0.691
	0.621	0.456	0.00302	0.0316	0.758
	0.624	0.551	0.00185	0.0146	0.691
1400	0.723	0.173	0.00556	0.0754	0.372
	0.725	0.237	0.00516	0.0682	0.497
	0.726	0.313	0.00464	0.0573	0.616
	0.726	0.391	0.00398	0.0449	0.700
	0.728	0.471	0.00310	0.0305	0.735
	0.730	0.548	0.00205	0.0163	0.692
	0.732	0.624	0.00085	0.0017	0.201
1600	0.822	0.173	0.00586	0.0793	0.371
	0.823	0.204	0.00550	0.0743	0.437
	0.825	0.273	0.00506	0.0644	0.549
	0.826	0.341	0.00452	0.0538	0.642
	0.827	0.411	0.00386	0.0414	0.707
	0.828	0.480	0.00292	0.0287	0.749
	0.830	0.548	0.00204	0.0158	0.675
1700	0.876	0.175	0.00590	0.0820	0.385
	0.876	0.258	0.00536	0.0691	0.528
	0.877	0.322	0.00485	0.0583	0.614
	0.879	0.387	0.00425	0.0473	0.683
	0.880	0.451	0.00342	0.0341	0.715
	0.882	0.514	0.00250	0.0213	0.698
	0.880	0.550	0.00194	0.0139	0.626
1800	0.923	0.174	0.00634	0.0842	0.366
	0.924	0.243	0.00569	0.0726	0.495
	0.926	0.303	0.00510	0.0620	0.584
	0.927	0.366	0.00453	0.0513	0.658
	0.928	0.428	0.00382	0.0395	0.700
	0.930	0.488	0.00296	0.0267	0.698
	0.930	0.519	0.00242	0.0201	0.683

TABLE 3

de Havilland Laminar Flow Blade Propeller (Design B)

NACA series 16 sections, 11-ft diameter, 2 blades

$s_{0.7} = 0.075$, $(t/c)_{0.7} = 0.064$, $\theta_{0.7} = 20$ deg.

N r.p.m.	M_T	J	K_Q	K_T	η
1000	0.512	0.203	0.00973	0.0954	0.317
	0.514	0.338	0.00832	0.0820	0.528
	0.516	0.447	0.00723	0.0692	0.678
	0.518	0.558	0.00591	0.0517	0.774
	0.520	0.674	0.00411	0.0315	0.819
	0.523	0.784	0.00214	0.0134	0.779
1200	0.610	0.195	0.00990	0.0964	0.301
	0.612	0.279	0.00910	0.0889	0.431
	0.614	0.372	0.00803	0.0786	0.577
	0.616	0.466	0.00707	0.0669	0.700
	0.619	0.561	0.00585	0.0508	0.777
	0.622	0.655	0.00441	0.0344	0.812
	0.624	0.746	0.00282	0.0191	0.801
	0.627	0.794	0.00185	0.0115	0.788
1400	0.712	0.196	0.01044	0.0993	0.296
	0.714	0.320	0.00897	0.0875	0.495
	0.717	0.399	0.00802	0.0773	0.611
	0.719	0.482	0.00712	0.0658	0.705
	0.721	0.562	0.00596	0.0510	0.764
	0.723	0.641	0.00478	0.0371	0.788
	0.724	0.684	0.00399	0.0293	0.798
	0.724	0.684	0.00399	0.0293	0.798
1600	0.810	0.281	0.00997	0.0969	0.434
	0.812	0.351	0.00909	0.0876	0.538
	0.814	0.423	0.00810	0.0770	0.637
	0.816	0.493	0.00725	0.0658	0.710
	0.819	0.563	0.00622	0.0527	0.756
	0.821	0.599	0.00569	0.0459	0.766
1700	0.858	0.265	0.01074	0.1016	0.398
	0.860	0.331	0.00987	0.0946	0.504
	0.862	0.399	0.00887	0.0838	0.599
	0.858	0.464	0.00780	0.0716	0.678
	0.860	0.530	0.00690	0.0604	0.739
	0.866	0.562	0.00655	0.0552	0.753
1800	0.908	0.251	0.01117	0.1038	0.370
	0.910	0.313	0.01051	0.0983	0.465
	0.912	0.377	0.00967	0.0903	0.558
	0.910	0.439	0.00869	0.0800	0.644
	0.912	0.500	0.00771	0.0686	0.708
	0.914	0.533	0.00712	0.0616	0.733

TABLE 4

de Havilland Laminar Flow Blade Propeller (Design B)

NACA series 16 sections, 11-ft diameter, 2 blades

 $s_{0.7} = 0.075$, $(t/c)_{0.7} = 0.064$, $\theta_{0.7} = 25$ deg.

N r.p.m.	M_T	J	K_Q	K_T	η
1000	0.510	0.230	0.01795	0.1164	0.237
	0.512	0.333	0.01660	0.1097	0.349
	0.514	0.447	0.01492	0.1014	0.483
	0.516	0.554	0.01342	0.0924	0.607
	0.521	0.668	0.01166	0.0796	0.735
	0.524	0.777	0.00944	0.0626	0.818
	0.528	0.885	0.00740	0.0440	0.833
	0.530	0.945	0.00608	0.0328	0.809
1200	0.607	0.222	0.01806	0.1165	0.227
	0.609	0.278	0.01747	0.1131	0.286
	0.612	0.370	0.01644	0.1077	0.385
	0.615	0.463	0.01512	0.1014	0.493
	0.618	0.555	0.01346	0.0928	0.610
	0.620	0.649	0.01202	0.0815	0.702
	0.622	0.739	0.01040	0.0690	0.777
	0.624	0.792	0.00912	0.0581	0.800
1300	0.658	0.220	0.01809	0.1160	0.224
	0.660	0.343	0.01689	0.1098	0.354
	0.662	0.427	0.01571	0.1045	0.451
	0.667	0.514	0.01446	0.0975	0.552
	0.668	0.599	0.01312	0.0896	0.650
	0.670	0.682	0.01172	0.0788	0.729
	0.673	0.729	0.01045	0.0696	0.772
1400	0.713	0.219	0.01812	0.1157	0.222
	0.714	0.316	0.01726	0.1113	0.324
	0.716	0.395	0.01636	0.1077	0.414
	0.718	0.477	0.01530	0.1020	0.505
	0.720	0.556	0.01406	0.0953	0.598
	0.720	0.636	0.01250	0.0859	0.692
	0.726	0.674	0.01208	0.0820	0.726
1500	0.759	0.217	0.01840	0.1164	0.217
	0.762	0.296	0.01760	0.1122	0.299
	0.765	0.369	0.01686	0.1096	0.381
	0.764	0.445	0.01590	0.1062	0.472
	0.766	0.519	0.01492	0.1010	0.557
	0.769	0.592	0.01385	0.0941	0.638
	0.772	0.630	—	0.0908	0.680
1600	0.810	0.348	0.01727	0.1113	0.357
	0.814	0.417	0.01670	0.1094	0.434
	0.816	0.487	0.01595	0.1057	0.512
	0.819	0.554	0.01505	0.1015	0.594
	0.821	0.591	0.01467	0.0987	0.633

TABLE 5

de Havilland Laminar Flow Blade Propeller (Design B)

NACA series 16 sections, 11-ft diameter, 2 blades

 $s_{0.7} = 0.075$, $(t/c)_{0.7} = 0.064$, $\theta_{0.7} = 30$ deg.

N r.p.m.	M_T	J	K_Q	K_T	η
1000	0.512	0.245	0.02443	0.1284	0.205
	0.513	0.333	0.02369	0.1237	0.276
	0.515	0.445	0.02212	0.1164	0.372
	0.517	0.556	0.02078	0.1104	0.468
	0.519	0.669	0.01904	0.1035	0.577
	0.522	0.781	0.01686	0.0922	0.678
	0.526	0.890	0.01473	0.0799	0.766
	0.529	0.949	0.01307	0.0693	0.800
1200	0.609	0.242	0.02440	0.1271	0.200
	0.612	0.374	0.02284	0.1183	0.307
	0.615	0.465	0.02163	0.1134	0.387
	0.617	0.560	0.02038	0.1080	0.471
	0.620	0.651	0.01919	0.1031	0.556
	0.622	0.744	0.01780	0.0970	0.644
	0.624	0.792	0.01691	0.0914	0.679

TABLE 6

de Havilland Laminar Flow Blade Propeller (Design B)

NACA series 16 sections, 11-ft diameter, 2 blades

 $s_{0.7} = 0.075$, $(t/c)_{0.7} = 0.064$, $\theta_{0.7} = 35$ deg.

N r.p.m.	M_T	J	K_Q	K_T	η
1000	0.510	0.258	0.03214	0.1384	0.176
	0.511	0.335	0.03067	0.1318	0.229
	0.512	0.446	0.02940	0.1263	0.305
	0.514	0.556	0.02814	0.1213	0.381
	0.521	0.666	0.02720	0.1167	0.454
	0.525	0.779	0.02540	0.1100	0.536
	0.527	0.887	0.02350	0.1028	0.616
	0.530	0.948	0.02230	0.0981	0.662
1200	0.608	0.251	0.03240	0.1379	0.170
	0.612	0.371	0.03070	0.1310	0.251
	0.614	0.464	0.03010	0.1268	0.310
	0.617	0.559	0.02839	0.1208	0.378
	0.620	0.649	0.02740	0.1168	0.439
	0.624	0.742	0.02618	0.1115	0.502
	0.627	0.792	0.02545	0.1086	0.536

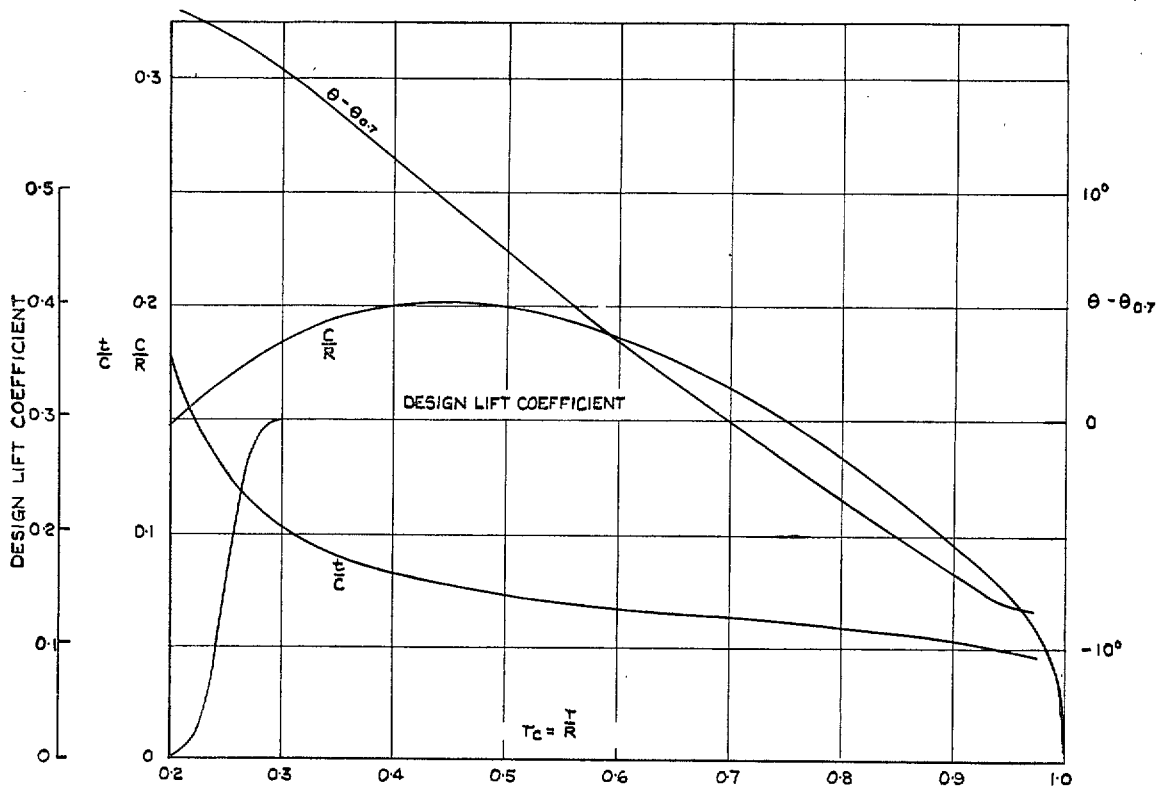


FIG. 1. Blade details of design B.

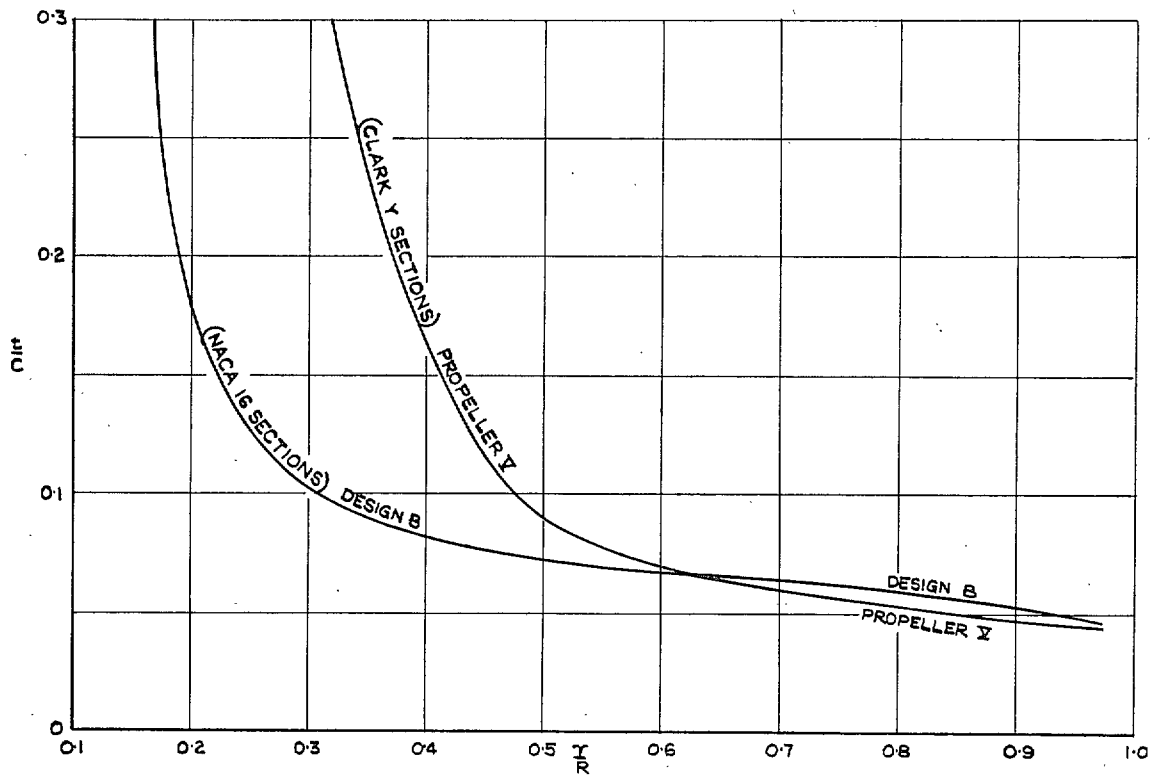


FIG. 2. Comparison of t/c for design B and propeller V.

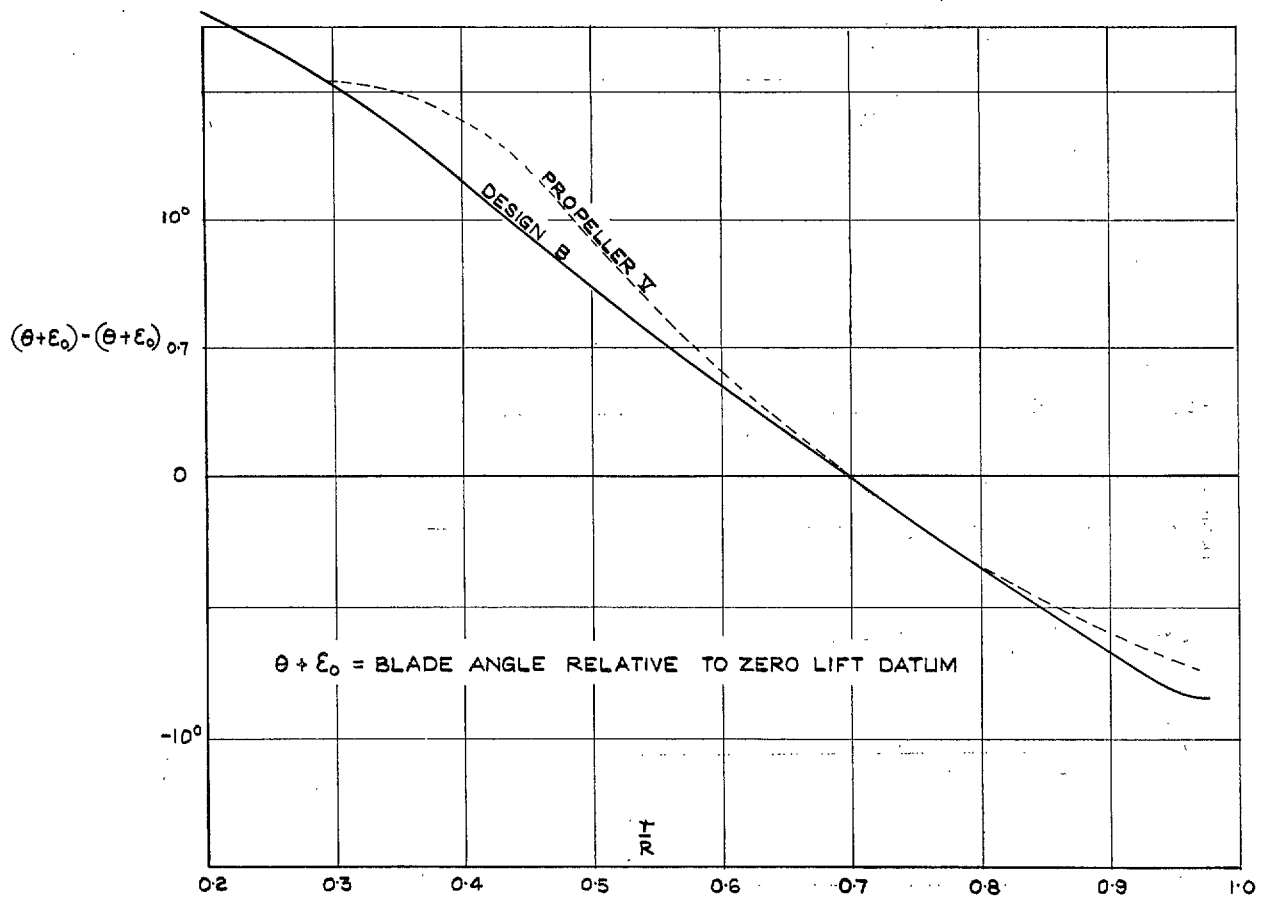


FIG. 3. Comparison of $(\theta - \theta_{0.7})$ for design B and propeller V.

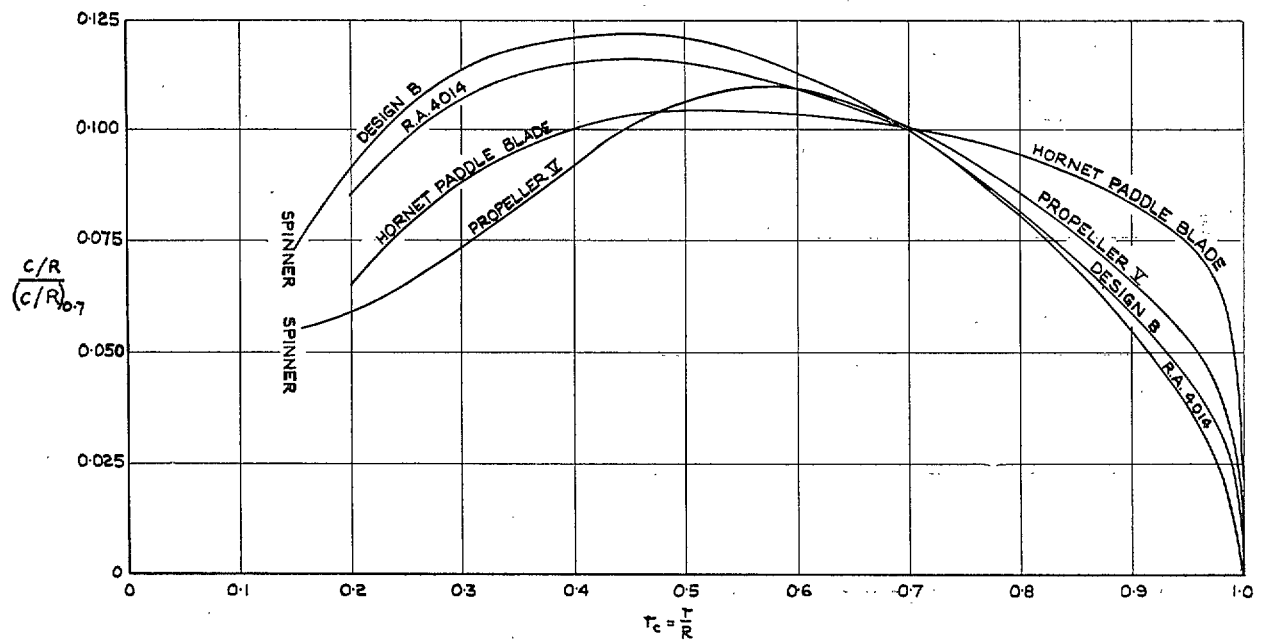


FIG. 4. Comparison of plan form of four propellers.

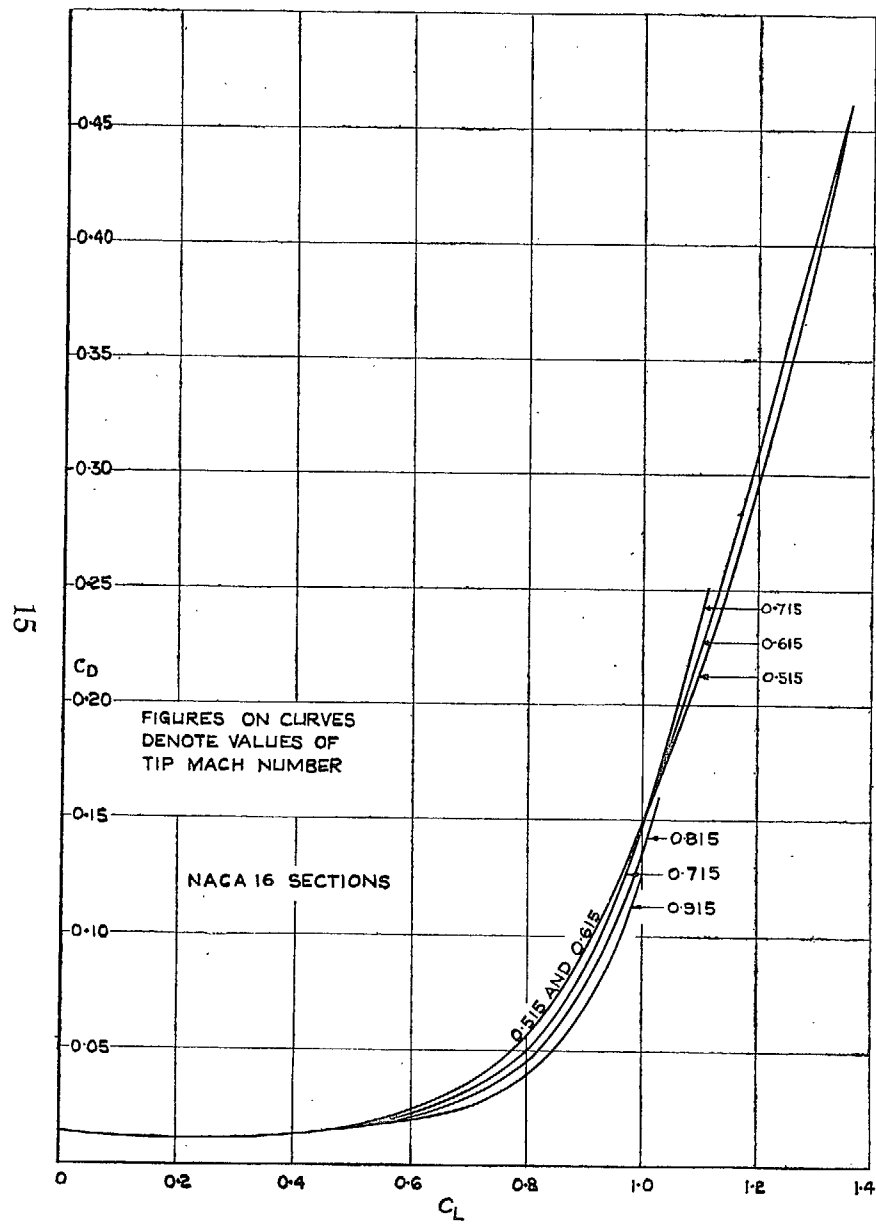


FIG. 5. Mean C_D vs. C_L for design B.

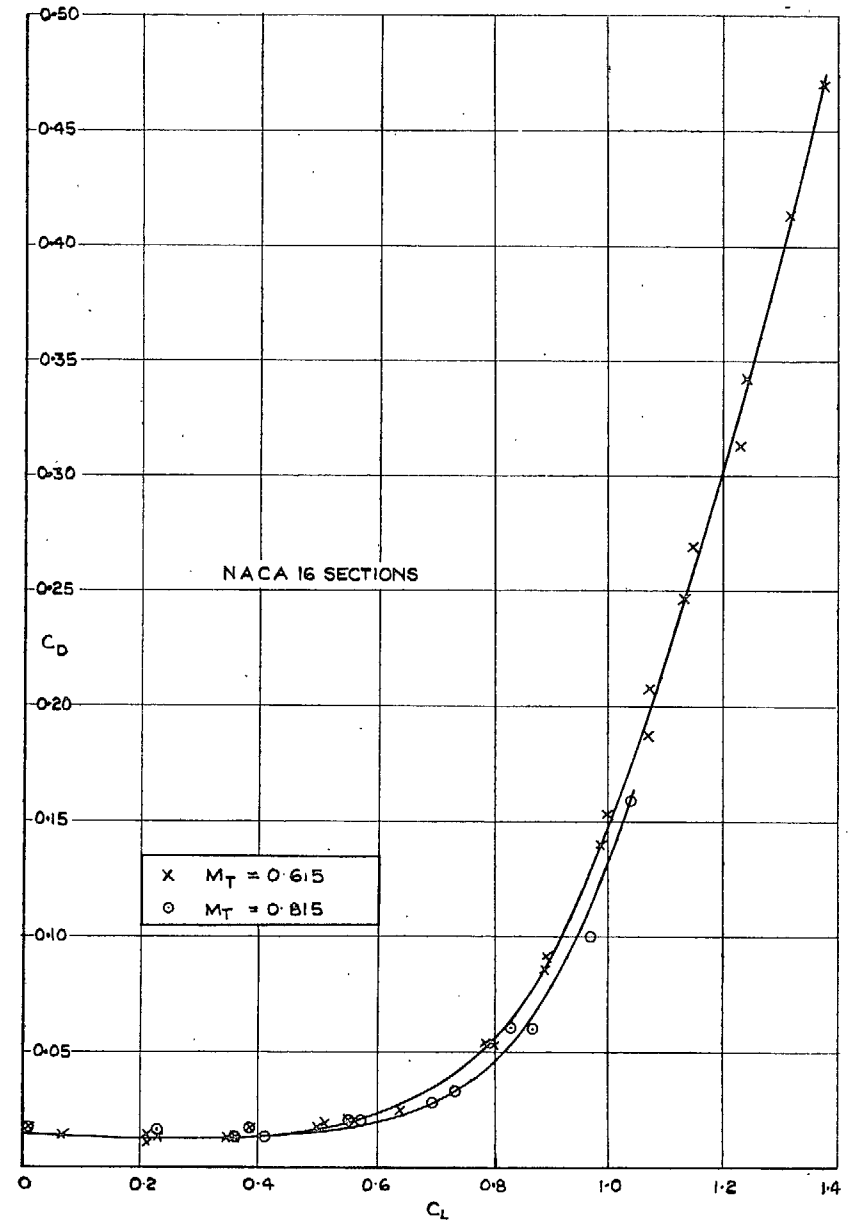


FIG. 6. C_D vs. C_L for $M_T = 0.615$ and $M_T = 0.815$ showing the scatter of the individual points; design B.

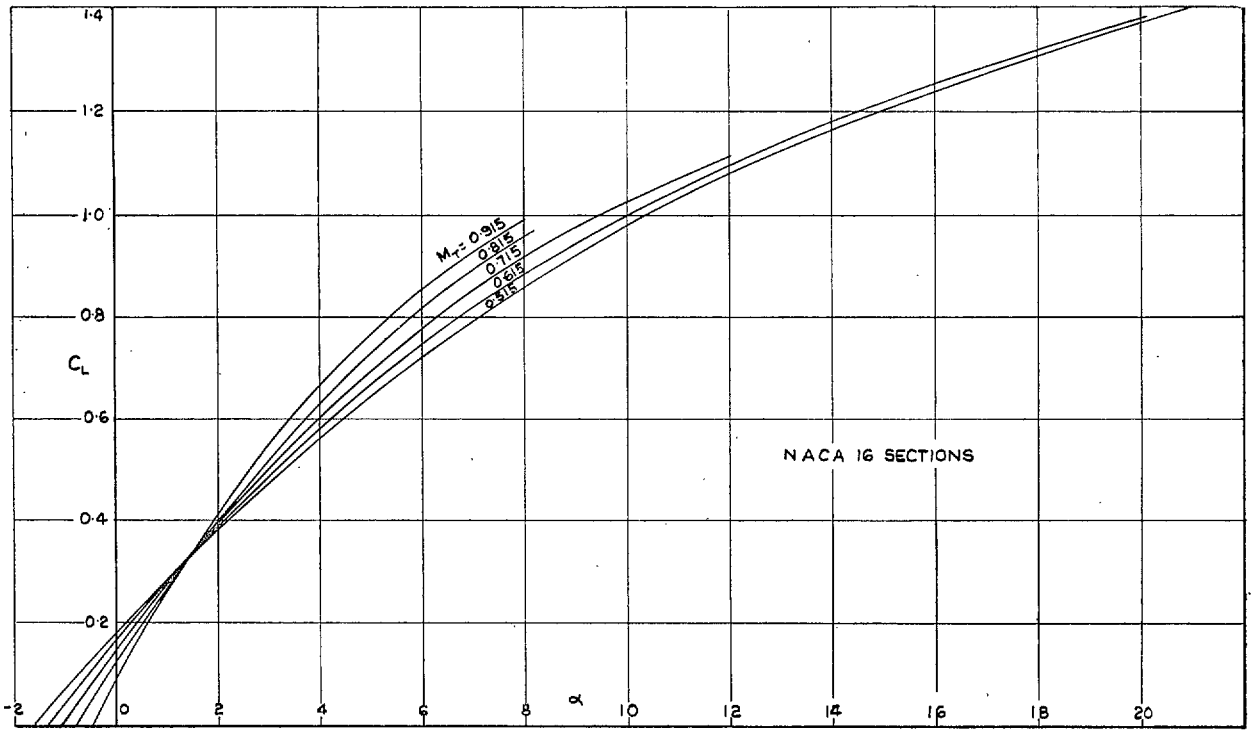


FIG. 7. C_L vs. α at constant M_T for design B.

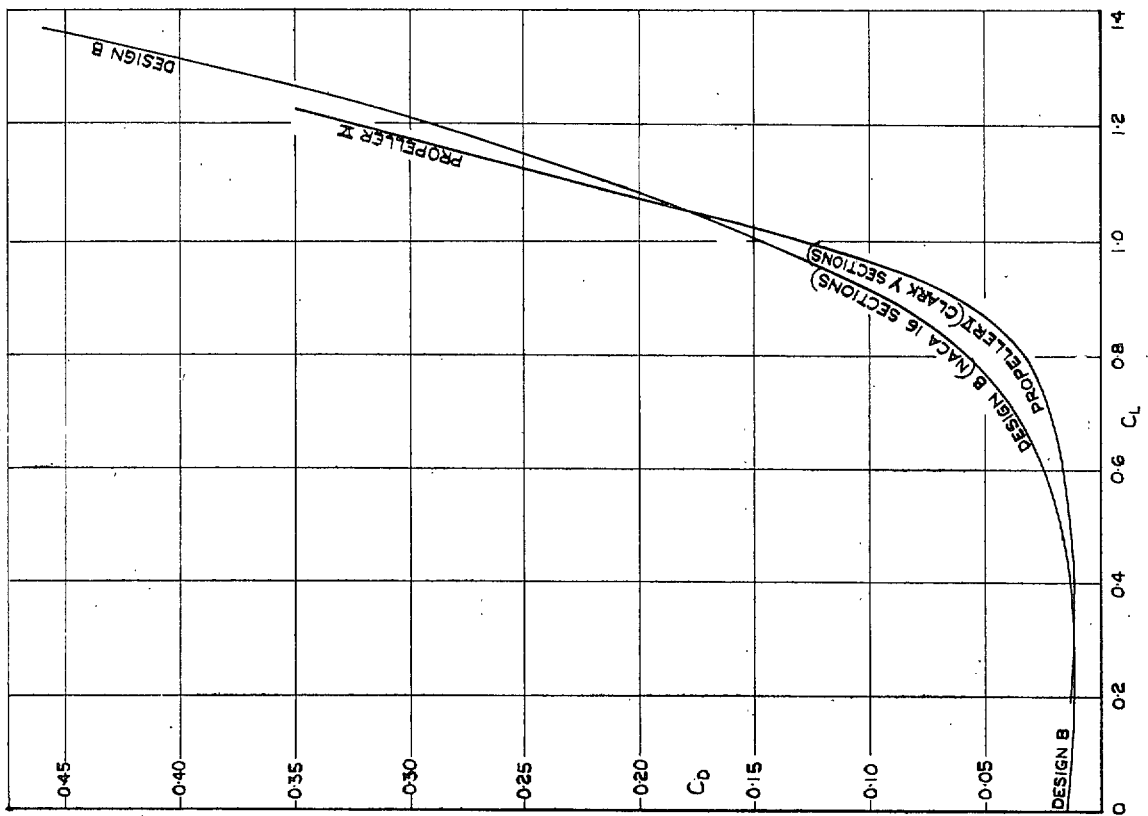


FIG. 8. Comparison at low Mach number of C_D -- C_L polars.

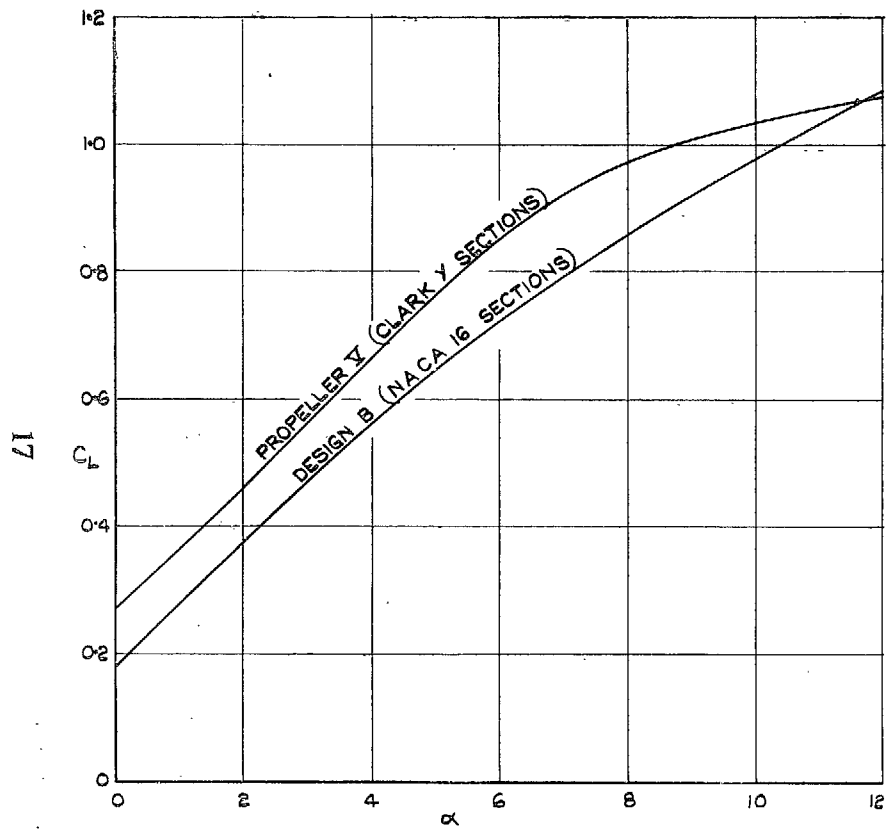


FIG. 9. Comparison at $M_T = 0.5$ of C_L vs. α curves of design B and propeller V.

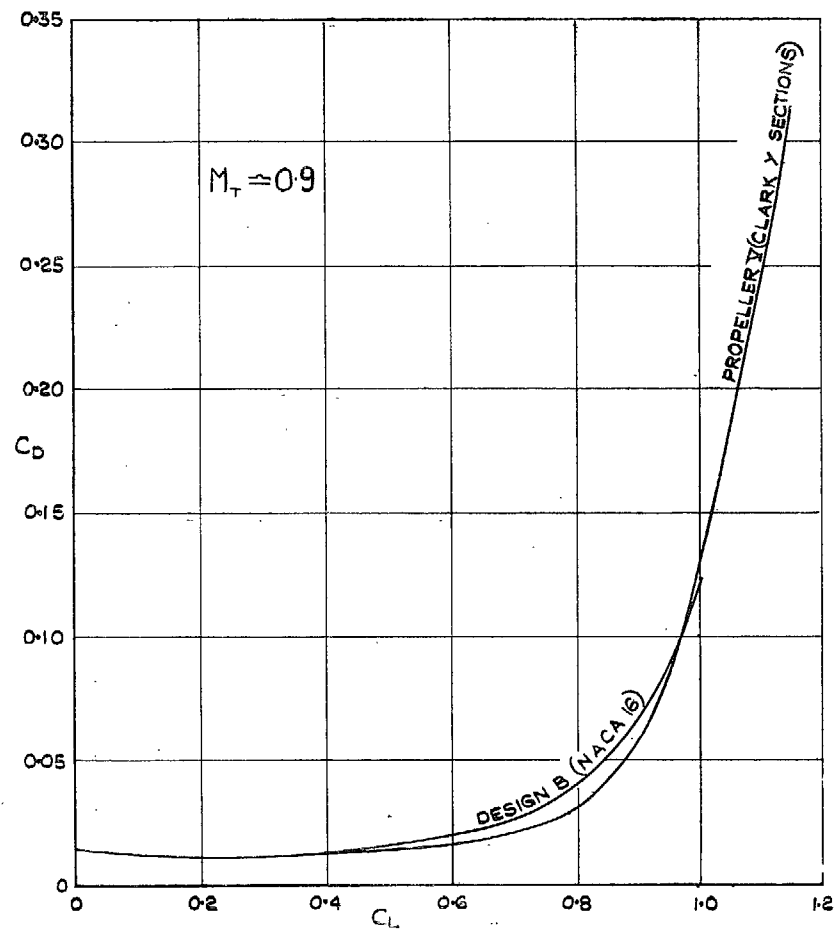


FIG. 10. Comparison at high Mach number of $C_D - C_L$ polars.

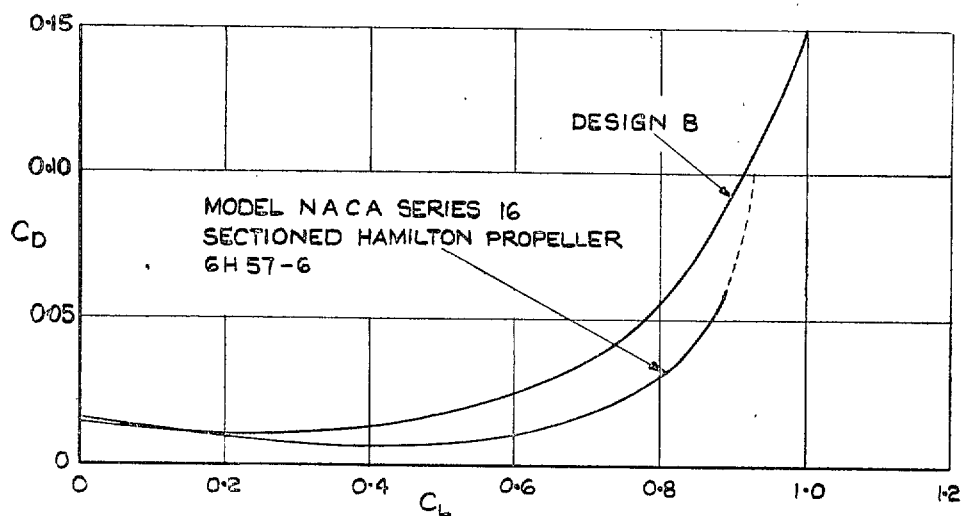


FIG. 11. Comparison of C_D vs. C_L curves for design B and for a model NACA series 16 propeller of a higher design C_L .

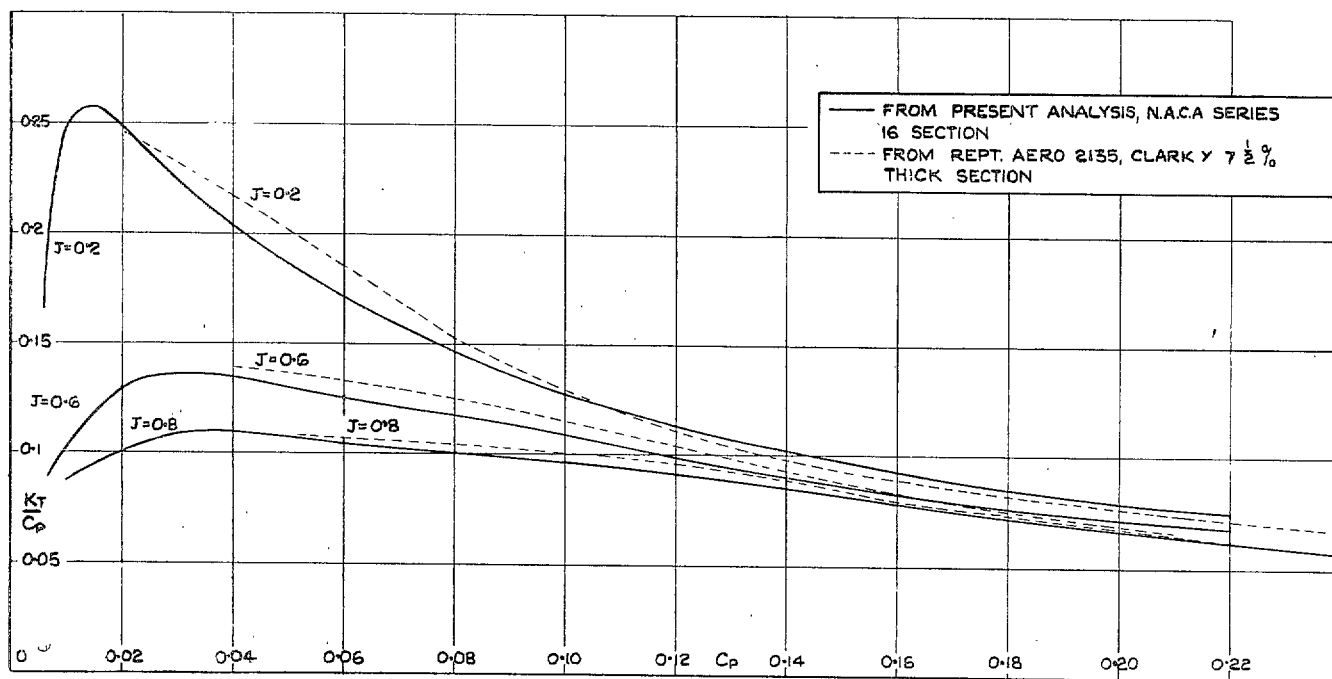


FIG. 12. Take-off thrust characteristics for a 3-bladed propeller solidity = 0.09 at the 0.7 radius.

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